

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02
/061 W

-----270818Z 059612 /23-11

R 270219Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5331
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
SECDEF
CINCPAC
CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1322

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: ELEMENTS OF CHANGE IN THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY

REF: MANILA A-25, JANUARY 27, 1977

1. PROVIDED BELOW IS THE SUMMARY OF THE REFERENCED
AIRGRAM SUBMITTED ON THIS DATE WHICH SURVEYS
ELEMENTS OF CHANGE IN THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES.
2. AS THE POWER OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES (AFP)
HAS EXPANDED UNDER MARTIAL LAW WE HAVE BEEN REASSURED
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THAT THE OFFICER CORPS REMAINS MORE STRONGLY ORIENTED
TOWARD THE U.S. THAN MOST OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE REGIME.
THE SITUATION IS NOT STATIC, HOWEVER, AND MORE NATIONALISTIC
ELEMENTS ARE RISING WITHIN THE AFP. DRAMATIC CHANGES
DO NOT SEEM IMMINENT BUT MORE OFFICERS ARE COMING
UP THE LINE WHO ARE OPENLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. AND SEEK
TO MOVE THE AFP IN NEW DIRECTIONS.

3. THERE ARE SEVERAL GROUPS AND A FEW INDIVIDUALS WHICH MERIT PARTICULAR ATTENTION. THE CLASS OF '51, A REPUTEDLY RADICAL GROUP OF OFFICERS WHICH GRADUATED FROM THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1951, IS MOVING INCREASINGLY INTO POSITIONS TO INFLUENCE TOP AFP POLICY. FOR EXAMPLE, MEMBERS OF THAT CLASS HAVE BEEN PLAYING KEY AND TROUBLE-SOME ROLES IN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE AFP STRUCTURE ARE A NUMBER

OF FLAMBOYANT, AMBITIOUS OR CONTROVERSIAL OFFICERS WHO MAY BE THE SOURCE OF FRICTION, DISRUPTION AND TROUBLE, PARTICULARLY AS THE AFP GROWS IN POWER AND POSITION. WE KNOW A FEW OF THEM BUT WE NEED TO IDENTIFY MORE.

5. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, YOUNGER OFFICERS ARE RISING OUT OF MINDANAO WHO DO NOT SEEM TO SHARE THE PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR SENIORS. THEY HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE U.S. MILITARY AND ARE CRITICAL THAT A SO-CALLED ALLY IS OF LITTLE HELP IN MINDANAO, THE ONLY WAR THEY HAVE EVER KNOWN. WE MUST KNOW MORE ABOUT THESE OFFICERS AND FIND WAYS TO PROVIDE THEM BROADER PERSPECTIVE. AS A TOP PRIORITY, WE SHOULD EXPAND OUR CURRENT MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS (\$600,000 ANNUALLY, INVOLVING ABOUT 70-100 AFP OFFICERS AND MEN) TO PROVIDE GREATER CONTACT WITH THE YOUNGER AFP OFFICERS. AN EARLY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO DEVELOP AN EXPANDED PROGRAM WHICH WOULD SEND ANNUALLY TO THE U.S. AN ADDITIONAL 20-30 YOUNG OFFICERS
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FOR TRAINING IN THE BROADER DISCIPLINES OF MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMICS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. AN ANNUAL MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM OF \$2 MILLION WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE BEGINNING IF WE ARE TO GIVE ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO THESE AFP OFFICERS WHOSE FUTURE MAY BE INCREASINGLY OUR FUTURE IN THE EVOLVING PHILIPPINE SCENE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MILITARY PLANS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA01322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770029-0514
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770113/aaaaalbr.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59c438d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA A-25
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3486696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELEMENTS OF CHANGE IN THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY
TAGS: MARR, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59c438d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009